

Contributions to the Knowledge of the Alpheid Shrimp of the Pacific Ocean, VIII

Losses of Specimens in the Fire of the Hawaii Marine Laboratory¹

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IN THE EVENING of 30 December 1961 a fire swept through the wooden main building of the Hawaii Marine Laboratory on Coconut Island, Kaneohe Bay, razing the building and its contents. In this building were stored the collections upon which this series of papers is based. The specimens being actively studied were kept in vials upon the shelves, while the types and the reference specimens were stored in vials either in glass jars or in sealed 1-gal tins. The fire was so intense that it melted the glass containers and burst the sealed tins. A few of the specimens stored in sealed cans were saved; all others were lost. An indication of the total number of species lost is given in Table 1. It

¹ Contribution No. 164 Hawaii Marine Laboratory. Manuscript received February 1, 1962.

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would be almost impossible to estimate the number of specimens lost, for many of the species now represented by one or several burned and broken specimens were previously represented by dozens to hundreds of specimens.

More serious are the losses of the type specimens of species already described in published papers. The vials containing these were stored in glass jars on open shelves and all were totally destroyed. We had wished to assign these valuable specimens to the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, where they would be available to Pacific workers, but we were holding them in the laboratory pending the final decision of the Museum officials as to whether they would continue to use the Museum as a repository for marine collections. The specimens lost are listed in Table 2.

Attempts will be made to obtain specimens to establish as neotypes. We plan to obtain the two from the Hawaiian Islands. If the opportunity arises, others will be collected from their original type localities but it is unlikely that it will be possible for us to visit again most of the islands so widely scattered over the Pacific.

Also lost were parts of a number of manuscripts. The next one of this series, dealing with the alpheid fauna of Canton and other Phoenix and Line islands, fortunately is at the Bishop Museum awaiting publication. The study scheduled to follow that, on alpheids from the Fijian, Tongan, and Samoan archipelagoes, had been finished in final form the day before the fire and was lying on top of our desk. Nothing of it remains; however, portions of it might possibly be re-created from early notes that had been

TABLE 1

LOCATION	SPECIES PREVIOUSLY IN COLLECTION	SPECIES NOW REPRE- SENTED BY AT LEAST ONE SPECIMEN
Marianas Islands.....	49	12
Marshall and Caroline Islands.....	55	39
Canton and Johnston islands.....	39	6
Fiji.....	31	5
Tonga.....	31	3
Samoa.....	44	4
Cook Islands.....	41	5
Society Islands.....	30	11
Gulf of Thailand.....	55	0

TABLE 2

SPECIES	REFERENCE	TYPE LOCALITY
<i>Athanas dubius</i>	Pacific Sci. 10(3):322-325, fig. 2	Saipan
<i>Alpheopsis diabolus</i>	Pacific Sci. 10(3):325-328, fig. 3	Saipan
<i>A. tetarthri</i>	Pacific Sci. 10(3):328-329, fig. 4	Saipan
<i>Synalpheus charon obscurus</i> (subspecies only).....	Pacific Sci. 10(3):329-331, fig. 5	Saipan
<i>S. anceps</i>	Pacific Sci. 10(3):334-337, fig. 8	Saipan
<i>Alpheus collumianus probabilis</i> (subspecies only).....	Pacific Sci. 10(3):338, fig. 10	Saipan
<i>A. collumianus medius</i> (subspecies only).....	Pacific Sci. 10(3):340, fig. 11	Saipan
<i>A. collumianus inermis</i> (subspecies only).....	Pacific Sci. 10(3):342, fig. 12	Saipan
<i>A. perplexus</i>	Pacific Sci. 10(3):347-349, fig. 13	Saipan
<i>A. chamorro</i>	Pacific Sci. 10(3):349-351, fig. 14	Saipan
<i>Alpheus</i> sp. 2.....	Pacific Sci. 10(3):351-352, fig. 15	Saipan
<i>A. cloudi</i>	Pacific Sci. 10(3):352-354, fig. 16	Saipan
<i>Alpheus</i> sp. 3.....	Pacific Sci. 10(3):358-360, fig. 19	Saipan
<i>A. ladronis</i>	Pacific Sci. 10(3):360-362, fig. 20	Saipan
<i>A. dolorus</i>	Pacific Sci. 10(3):362-363, fig. 21	Saipan
<i>Thunor</i> sp.....	Pacific Sci. 10(3):367-371, fig. 23	Saipan
<i>Alpheus arnoa</i>	Pacific Sci. 11(2):199-200, fig. 5	Arno, Marshall Islands
<i>Salmoneus tricristata</i>	Pacific Sci. 13(2):131-133, fig. 1	Yap, Caroline Islands
<i>Synalpheus tubhilli</i>	Pacific Sci. 13(2):133-136, fig. 2	Yap, Caroline Islands
<i>Alpheus lanceostylus</i>	Pacific Sci. 13(2):136-138, fig. 3	Pearl and Hermes Reef, Hawaiian Arch.
<i>A. malabaricus mackayi</i> (subspecies only).....	Pacific Sci. 13(2):149-151, fig. 12	Wailupe Fish Pond, Oahu, Hawaii
<i>Athanas rhotbionastes</i>	Pacific Sci. 14(2):142-146, fig. 3	Canton Island, Phoenix Arch.
<i>A. verrucosus</i>	Pacific Sci. 14(2):147-149, fig. 4	Eniwetok, Marshall Islands
<i>Metabetaeus lobena</i>	Pacific Sci. 14(3):299-302, fig. 1	South Point, Island of Hawaii
<i>Prionalpheus triarticulatus</i>	Pacific Sci. 14(3):293-296, fig. 1	Korolevu, Fiji Islands
<i>Prionalpheus</i> sp.....	Pacific Sci. 14(3):296-298, fig. 2	Arue, Tahiti, Society Islands

filed away in a tightly packed drawer, the contents of which were burned only on the edges. The next two papers in the same drawer, both in draft form, one based on collections from the Cook and Society islands, the other based on collections from Eniwetok in the Marshalls, were saved, but unfortunately the plates and the specimens figured in the plates were lost. The most complete loss was a draft of a study dealing with the shrimps in the Gulf of Thailand and adjacent waters; for this study the entire manuscript, all figures (about 50 sets of drawings), and all specimens were lost. Also lost were all original field notes, giving the ecological conditions for each exact collecting area.

An attempt will be made to rebuild the study collections and to salvage information that may be available in the remaining drafts and notes.

This short report is offered in apology to the several individuals, institutions, and foundations that cooperated with us and supported us in our work. We particularly wish to express to the following institutions our regret for the loss of their specimens which they so helpfully loaned us: Raffles Museum, Singapore; Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu; Allan Hancock Foundation, Los Angeles; and the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. And we wish to offer our regrets that we cannot present studies as complete and as documented as we had

planned to the institutions and foundations that have supported our work financially: Bernice P. Bishop Museum and Yale University for the grant that permitted the collections to be made through Polynesia in 1954; the National Science Foundation, Division for Systematic Biology, for a series of grants³ from 1955 to the present, which supported both the laboratory work and

³ Grant nos. NSF-G-1754, 3863, 9937, 13,401.

part of the expenses of the trip by Mrs. Banner to Thailand; the Fulbright Foundation and Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, which permitted us to make our study of the shrimp of the Gulf of Thailand and adjacent waters. Our friends, who have helped us in the studies and who have sent their condolences, are too numerous to list here; these we will thank individually.